

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing a compound corresponding to formula (I)



wherein

X represents H, Cl or F, and

Y represents H, Cl, F, C1-C3 alkyl, or C1-C3 alkyl substituted by at least one halogen atom,

with the proviso that X and Y cannot simultaneously represent fluorine, said method comprising contacting at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds corresponding to formula (II)



and compounds corresponding to formula (III)



in which X and Y have the meanings given above,

with an antimony compound corresponding to the formula $\text{SbCl}_{0.5}\text{F}_{4.5}$.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein X and Y each represent Cl.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein X represents H, and Y represents Cl.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out at a temperature ranging from 20° to 150°C.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said method is carried out at a temperature ranging from 50° to 120°C.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the compound of formula (II) or the compound of formula (III) or of the sum of the compounds of formula (II) and formula (III), to the antimony compound lies in the range from 0.1 : 1 to 10 : 1.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the molar ratio lies in the range from 0.5 : 1 to 2 : 1.

8. A method of purifying a compound corresponding to formula (I)



contaminated with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula (II)



and compounds of formula (III)



said method comprising treating the contaminated compound of formula (I) according to the method of claim 1.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the contaminated compound of formula (I) comprises 1,1,1-trifluoro-2,2-dichloroethane

contaminated with one or both of 1,1,2-trifluoro-1,2-dichloroethane and 1,2,2-trifluoro-1,1-dichloroethane.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out in a corrosion-resistant apparatus.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the apparatus is coated with or made of aluminum.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the apparatus is coated with or made of polytetrafluoroethylene.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the contacting is carried out in liquid phase.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out batchwise.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out continuously.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out in a reaction mixture containing 1 to 70 parts by weight of HF and 30 by 99 parts by weight of antimony compound, whereby the sum of the HF and the antimony compound amounts to 100 parts by weight.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out in a reactor having an inner surface which is at least partially fluorinated.

18. A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is carried out in the presence of HF and the antimony compound is present in form of an HF adduct.